

PUBLIC BUILDING AT FOND DU LAC, WIS.

JANUARY 9, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MILLIKEN, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 2287.]

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2287) for the erection of a post-office building at Fond du Lac, Wis., submit the following report:

The city of Fond du Lac is located at the head of Lake Winnebago, in the county of Fond du Lac, in the east central part of Wisconsin. It has water communications with the Great Lakes, and is, and has been for many years, one of the leading commercial cities of the State. Its railroad facilities are fully as good as can be found in any city of Wisconsin, as it is located upon the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, and upon the Chicago and Northwestern, the two leading lines of the Northwest. The Wisconsin Central Railroad, which has become a part of the great trunk road from the Pacific to Chicago, runs its principal line through the city of Fond du Lac.

The State census of 1895 gives the population at 13,051, being a gain of 1,027 over the census of 1890.

The assessed valuation in 1895 of its manufacturing institutions was \$670,581. Value of manufactured articles, \$2,962,750.

The post-office is a depository for money-order funds received from smaller offices, the average receipts from such source being about \$500 a day. The building now occupied is old and poor, and affords no security for the keeping of money. It was broken into by burglars last summer and several hundred dollars of Government and other funds stolen. It was also burglarized three years ago, the Government losing a considerable amount. The office is very insecure for the keeping of money-order funds, being exposed to such raids at any time.

The annual rental paid by the Department for this building is \$600, and for fuel and light, \$310. The receipts and disbursements in all the departments of the Fond du Lac post-office for the year ending December 31, 1895, amounted to \$370,932.63. Net gain, \$6,579.21.

The committee of the Fifty-third Congress reported in favor of a Government building at Fond du Lac, and in their report they said:

The gross receipts from the post-office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891, amounted to \$15,477.25 and the expenses were \$10,669.37, leaving a net revenue of \$4,807.90, and for the four quarters ending March 31, 1894, the gross receipts were \$17,176. The amount paid annually for rent, light, and fuel is \$904.35.

In the mailing divisions there are recorded the arrival and departure

of 30 mail trains daily, carrying 49 letter pouches and 43 sacks of papers weighing 2,580 pounds; and for the year 29,218 sacks were handled, weighing 1,021,700 pounds, and in addition to this Fond du Lac supplies 16 post-offices direct by mail or stage lines where there is no train postal service.

Fond du Lac is an important city, and her future is established. The city enjoys the advantage of the free delivery of her mails, which privilege her growing importance within the past few years has demanded.

The committee, therefore, recommend the passage of the bill.